Valerie Winrow is a Sustainability Business Analyst at Cox Communications. Prior to joining Cox, she served as a Director of Corporate Social Responsibility & Engagement for the City of Atlanta’s Public Works Department, overseeing sustainability best practices and environmental policy. Her professional background includes public relations, marketing, outreach, and community engagement. Valerie is also a writer, lifestyle blogger, and motivational speaker. She earned her B.S. in Public Policy from Georgia State University.

Lindsey Carle is a Wetland Scientist at an environmental consulting and engineering company located in Massachusetts. As a Wetland Scientist, Lindsey prepares local and state environmental work permits, performs wetland delineations and conducts environmental compliance monitoring and reporting. Lindsey received her B.S. in Aquaculture and Aquarium Science from the University of New England in Maine. After completing her degree, Lindsey joined AmeriCorps via the Student Conservation Association as a Desert Restoration Corp member in the Mojave Desert, California. Lindsey worked to restore the habitat of the endangered Desert Tortoise.

Sarah Lindemann is an Environmental Compliance and Permitting Analyst with sPower, a utility-scale renewable energy company that owns and operates a portfolio of over 1 GW of solar and wind assets in North America. Prior to that, she gained experience in the renewable energy industry with Apex Clean Energy in Charlottesville, VA. Sarah also has experience in permitting public and private sector projects under the Clean Water Act in the fast-growing region of Northern Virginia. She graduated from Sweet Briar College in 2013 with a B.A. in Environmental Studies. Sarah has a keen interest in understanding and resolving the challenges that arise when multiple stakeholders work together to make natural resource management decisions, especially as it relates to utility-scale renewable energy projects.

Tiffany Rozell is a project management professional at Genworth Financial and has work experience in sports marketing. Tiffany is certified in Lean Six Sigma and is pursuing a PMP certification. She is the president of the Women’s Forum employee resource group at Genworth and leads annual initiatives including recycling adoption, breast cancer awareness, and safe housing for the homeless. Tiffany earned a B.A. from Western Michigan University with a major in Organizational Communications.

Jerry (Jay) Headley has a passion for people, communication, and sustainability. As the Director of Veteran Services at Virginia Tech, he has the distinct pleasure of helping veterans and their families navigate the financial and social nuances of higher education. He holds a B.S in Film from Portland State University. After completing the XMNR program, he hopes to utilize his knowledge and experiences to link sustainable practices with the veteran student population he serves.
Executive Master of Natural Resources (XMNR) — Class of 2019

Petra Solarik earned a B.A in Biology at Wheaton College, MA. where she focused on marine wildlife conservation research. Throughout her career, she has contributed to various field studies on marine mammal population decline and has assisted in public outreach and education campaigns in Holland and Turkey. Petra currently works for an educational outreach organization, The Nature of Things, in Westchester, NY. As a naturalist educator, Petra travels to local schools and encourages children to take a more active interest in the environment around them and around the world.

Dustin Brooks is a Field Supervisor for the Natural Resources Services Division of the Redwood Community Action Agency, a non-profit organization based in Eureka, CA. He leads a crew of field technicians in natural resource projects including, fisheries enhancement, water quality improvement, riparian and wetland restoration, erosion and sediment control, invasive plant removal, urban stream enhancement, and watershed educational projects. Dustin has a B.S. in Environmental Science & Management, with an emphasis on ecological restoration from Humboldt State University. He currently serves on the board for the Jacoby Creek Land Trust in Bayside, CA. and he is a member of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER).

Cheryl Pavic Henner has 22 years of experience working as an Air Force engineering officer, and 13 years of experience as a project management, consulting, and finance professional in private industry. She currently works with state and local governments to sustain and grow their respective economies. As part of this work, Cheryl facilitates public-private partnering with community, business and military leaders to help them formalize relationships, enhance quality of life, strengthen military missions and communities, and save money. Having grown up on a family farm, Cheryl is intent on leveraging her experiences and formal education to promote a balanced approach to the interdependence of rural and urban communities, and their development.

Barry Hawkins grew up in Charlotte, NC. where he is currently an environmental consultant for Stogner Environmental. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.A. in Sociology in 2017, focusing his studies on sustainability challenges and contemporary environmental policy. Since graduation, he has worked in the solar industry on the design, sale, and marketing of solar photovoltaic systems in both the commercial and residential sectors. His key areas of interest are sustainable development and environmental policy.

Saba Tesfay has a B.A. from the University of Las Vegas in Political Science and Solar and Renewable Energy where she hosted a range of events including movie showings, panel discussions, and conferences; Saba then took her passion abroad as she moved to Ethiopia in 2012. There with a team, they hosted the country’s first Earth Day event (Ethio Earth Day Expo) with over 100 vendors and for a span of 3-days with the largest musical/entertainment acts. Moving back to America, Saba continued her involvement in public awareness and found avenues to share the wonders that the cannabis plant, hemp, offers for the environment.
Fritz Ndoko grew up in the tiny Central West African nation of Cameroon, often known as Africa in Miniature. Fritz primarily has a health background, attaining his B.Sc. in Kinesiology from the University of North Texas, and graduate degrees in Occupational and Physical Therapy from the University of St Augustine. Seeing pygmies in the southern part of Cameroon losing their habitat to deforestation, polluted beaches and water sources, led to questions about how he can contribute to a sustainable future for coming generations of Cameroonians and Africans as a whole. Fritz is passionate about wildlife, traveling, outdoors, environmental sustainability, learning different cultures, and photography.

Kyle Hatterick is a Construction Project Manager for Resource Environmental Solutions, who manages stream restoration and wetland enhancements projects in the Northern Virginia Region that utilize low impact designs. Kyle has a B.S. from James Madison University in Integrated Science and Technology, where his studies focused on water quality and riparian systems. Kyle has prior experience in sustainable agriculture and wind energy research in Germany.

Jessi Savioli currently serves as a Regional Compliance Analyst for Universal Technical Institute’s corporate headquarters in Scottsdale, AZ. Previously, she worked in regulatory compliance for the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges in Arlington, VA. She is an Army Veteran, having served as an Arabic Linguist in military intelligence units from 2003-2008. She has over ten years of experience in state and federal regulatory compliance, to include experience on government contracts gained while working as a civilian contractor in Iraq. She is an avid outdoors woman and backpacker with a passion for nature, wildlife, conservation, and sustainability.

Kristine Demark is in her 15th year of teaching at Oakcrest High School in Mays Landing, NJ. She currently teaches Honors Human Body Systems and Honors Medical Interventions as part of the Biomedical Science Magnet Program. Prior to being a teacher, Kristine worked in the field of animal husbandry at The National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. and The New Jersey State Aquarium (Adventure Aquarium) in Camden, NJ.

Danielle Staggers graduated from Towson University with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Studies and a concentration in Biology. She completed the Veterinary Assistant program at Prince George’s Community College in 2015 and soon after, joined the Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Conservation Corps. She currently works for the Maryland Department of Health as a Licensed Environmental Health Specialist as well as a part-time Park Ranger for the City of Greenbelt. She will graduate with a Master’s in Biotechnology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in Spring 2019.
Lao Soe currently works for the Voice of America (Burmese Service) as an International Broadcaster. Lao has over 15 years of various work experiences while living in Britain, Thailand, and Myanmar. Lao has worked for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), British Embassy in Rangoon, United Nations, and in the private sector. Lao’s interest in environmental issues has grown a great deal since she became a journalist. She would like to use her platform to raise awareness of critical environmental issues, such as climate changes, global warming, and managing natural resources. Lao holds B.A. in English from Taunggyi University, Myanmar.

Tyler Walston is currently an Environmental Planner for the Wicomico County Department of Planning, Zoning and Community Development in Salisbury, MD. Tyler graduated from Salisbury University with a B.A. in History and a B.S. in Geography. Tyler began his career in the environmental field as a Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer (Class of 2012-13) and has since worked for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Dorchester and Worcester Soil Conservation Districts. Tyler is a member of the Wicomico County Forestry Board and is a licensed Nutrient Management Consultant in the State of Maryland.

Tim Mastracci is currently a financial analyst with S&P Global Market Intelligence in Charlottesville, VA. He grew up in Yorktown, Virginia and has been a lifelong resident of the state. He received his B.S. in Finance from Virginia Tech and looks forward to pursuing further education with the University. In his free time, his hobbies include backpacking, fly fishing, and mountain biking. He hopes to create the opportunity for a career path promoting sustainability and preservation of natural resources.

Keisha Dutton graduated from Empire State College with a B.S. in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Conservation Biology. She has been in real estate for approximately 20 years and is currently working with her family’s real estate development company on reclaimed buildings that house mixed-use projects. She has a deep love of nature, and because of that, her free time is spent being a beekeeper, building bat houses, and raising monarch butterflies.

Mariane Grubbs graduated from UNC-CH with a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies. After spending the last eight years in a variety of positions, including an Intellectual Property Administrator for a medical device startup and a Large Animal Veterinary Assistant, she is transitioning to pursue a career focused on the conservation of wildlife and our natural resources, her true passions. She was recently hired as an Environmental & Operations Technician for an environmental consulting firm in North Carolina. Mariane hopes to combine knowledge and skills from these experiences to better serve sustainability efforts and grow as a conservation professional.
Nguyen Le currently works at the Chesapeake Bay Trust, where she supports program staff and manages project grants related to education, restoration, and outreach aimed at increasing environmental stewardship and restoring our waterways. Prior to joining the Trust, she worked for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. There, she managed a stormwater education program that educates teachers and students about ways to improve water quality by implementing practices on campus. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Science and Policy with a Minor in Sustainability Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Spencer Stater graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a B.S. in Geography-GIS: Environmental Science & Policy. He currently works as a GIS Specialist for Black & Veatch in Overland Park, KS. Prior to his current position, he worked as an Engineering Technician for Terracon Consultants, Inc. where he collected and tested soil samples, performed field density tests, and inspected various construction materials. Spencer also served as an Infantry Rifleman in the United States Marine Corps for five years.

Nikki Mehta is a Global Product Management and Marketing Software Consultant with more than fifteen years’ experience in Energy, Telecommunications, Government Contracting, and Construction Management. She completed her BSEE at the University of Maryland, College Park. She started her career at Baltimore Gas & Electric working in generation, transmission, distribution, and marketing departments. With Going Green Today, she built an online platform to help consumers identify where they could reduce their carbon footprint with a personalized 90-day plan. Her goal is to help companies implement sustainable strategies to reduce their global carbon footprint and reduce the number of natural disasters.

John Robert Mein has a strong passion for local and global sustainability. He recently completed a summer residency program at Solar Energy International and is currently working in the solar industry with Empowered Energy Systems in Hotchkiss, CO. His past professional experiences include managing base area operations at a ski area in Silverton, CO. managing a craft rum tasting room and working as a government-contracted sales associate. John holds a B.A. in Sustainability Studies from Colorado Mountain College and a Photovoltaic Associate certification from the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.

Katerina Martchouk is a marketing specialist with extensive experience in higher education, professional development, and related fields. She has also worked in the advertising industry, developing marketing strategies in a broad set of contexts and rising to the level of creative director which demonstrates her ability to lead up and down within complex organizations. Katerina is new to the environmental and sustainability field and is excited about this opportunity. She enjoys international travel and lifelong learning.
Mona Fakahani is a Deputy Director for the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. She is an ISA Certified Arborist, a Certified Tree Risk Assessor, and has 11 years of experience in urban forest management. Her duties include performing tree inspections, assessing tree conditions, and recommending tree mitigation. She also represents the agency at planning and construction meetings, reviews street construction plans and requests design modifications to make sure no damage occurs to parks or city trees. She has served in storm emergency responses, and supervised storm emergency contractors. Her goal is to protect and improve urban forests in NYC, and educate the public about their environmental benefits.

Dawn Jones is a Director of Operational Execution for one of the largest brand experience companies. In her role, Dawn is responsible for providing strategy development and analytical support across all business units. She earned her B.S. in Business Administration from University of Maryland University College. Her goal is to synthesize her analytical strengths with increased natural resource knowledge to pursue a meaningful role in environmental conservation.

Phal Mantha is an agricultural and environmental management specialist and is currently the Director of Agriculture and Sustainability for Ridge to Reefs. Phal has managed a diverse array of agricultural operations, leading strategy, and business development as well as production, sales, and project management and specializes in the application of precision technologies and innovative green engineering practices in order to address the many problems and opportunities found at the nexus of food, water, energy, and the environment.

Virginia Vassalotti is a Program Coordinator at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. The program she manages is the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN), a collaborative network of diverse partners, all working to protect sources of drinking water in the Schuylkill River Watershed. Virginia fosters creative partnerships, provides technical assistance, and implements projects to protect water resources. She previously worked at the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and has a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Delaware.

Jacob Brown is a Geospatial Imagery Specialist (GIS) for General Atomics. As a GIS, he provides and analyzes aerial imagery and map data. He recently separated from the United States Air Force, where he was an aircrew professional for four years, and specialized in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) assets. While in the military, he completed a B.A. in Psychology. He plans to combine the fields of psychology and environmental studies into a Ph.D. With a family history of agricultural farming and four years of mining experience, he understands first-hand the importance of environmental management.
Jeff Merritt is Vice President for Cox Communications’ Roanoke operation. Jeff is responsible for leading employees and managing the daily operations for the Roanoke division. He is involved in fostering strong partnerships with charitable, civic, and business organizations to maintain the company’s commitment to the community. Jeff holds leadership roles in a variety of community organizations including Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia, Western Virginia Foundation for the Arts and Sciences and the Virginia Cable Telecommunications Association. A native of Chesapeake, Virginia, he holds a B.S. in Psychology from Old Dominion University.

Maria Suarez graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a B.A. in Humanities, with a concentration in Sustainability. Currently, she works at The Youth Network, LLC where she works in Quality Assurance. In 2015, she interned at N.J. Department of Environmental Protection’s Air Quality office where she helped investigate infractions to pertinent titles and codes. During this time she helped the department learn new ways to use their equipment more effectively. She is an active leader in her parish youth group and has many years experience leading volunteer programs.

Ryan Donner spent his childhood on the family farm in Minnesota. He enlisted in the United States Navy in August of 1999 and continues to serve today as an Aviation Structural Mechanic (AMC) servicing naval aircraft. He is currently on a General Officer Recruiting tour in Baltimore, Maryland. His wife Kelly is a MSW/APSW and they welcomed their first son, Cole, in May 2017. Ryan has a B.S. in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University and is interested in pursuing a higher education degree as he plans to transition into civilian life focusing on sustainability and natural resources management.

Brittany Lewis is a driven individual with a passion for environmental stewardship. She holds a B.S. in Biology and an MPH in Environmental Health Science from the University of Michigan. As an Environmental Health Specialist with the Southern Nevada Health District, Brittany primarily inspects aquatic venues, but occasionally, she assists with other facility inspections (such as schools, body art parlors, and food vendors), training new employees, and vector surveillance and control. When she isn’t working, you’ll find Brittany volunteering with environmentally focused organizations or exploring nature. Brittany aspires to one day make environmental stewardship a full-time gig.

Colleen Lacy is an administrative aide and naturalist for Baltimore County Recreation and Parks at Lake Roland, a 500-acre park, in Baltimore, MD. She received her B.S. in Environmental Management from the University of Maryland University College. She has volunteered for two years at Irvine Nature Center, as naturalist providing over 50 hours of environmental education to urban students. As a military spouse of 19 years, she has experienced a wide variety of communities across the world. Colleen is passionate about the environment, community involvement, stewardship, and is looking forward to becoming a leader in the urban natural resource conservation field.